



Українська Католицька Парафія  
Покрова Пресвятої Богородиці

*Protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
Ukrainian Catholic Parish*

*The No. 1 priority for ... the church is evangelization:  
preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ in today's world.*

5 Серпень, 2012

Volume 57 No. 32

August 5, 2012

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**Служби Божі / Divine Liturgies**

В Неділю / Sunday

8:30 am recited - Bilingual

10:30 am sung - Ukrainian

**У Свята / Holy Day of Obligation**

10:00 am and 7:00 pm

**Щодня / Daily Scheduled**

7:30 am Matins/Утреня in chapel

8:25 am in church

**First Friday - 8:25 am** Divine Liturgy  
followed by Moleben to the Sacred Heart  
of Jesus or Mother of God

**Сповіді** починаючи десять хвилин перед  
Службою Божою

**Confessions** begin ten minutes before the  
Divine Liturgy or by appointment

**Baptism** by appointment - membership in  
Parish is required

**Marriages** by appointment made at least six  
months in advance. Membership in Parish  
is required

**Funerals** by arrangement in the Parish Office

**оо. Василяни/Basilian Fathers serving in  
this Parish**

Father Josaphat Tyrkalo, OSBM, Pastor

Most Rev. Severian Yakymyshyn, OSBM

*Bishop Emeritus*

*10-а Неділя по Зісланні Святого Духа  
Матея 17:14-23*



*Tenth Sunday after Pentecost*

*Matthew 17:14-23*

**SPECIAL NOTICE - Do not park in the  
RESERVED stalls in front of St. Mary's  
Gardens when you come for the  
Sunday Divine Liturgy. Your car will  
be towed.**

*Місячний намір Святішого Отця Папи Римського – на Серпень*

*Загальний намір: "Щоб в'язнів завжди трактували справедливо і з пошаною до їхньої людської гідності".*

*Місійний намір: "Щоб молоді люди, які покликані іти за Христом, бажали проповідувати і свідчити Євангелію до країв землі".*

- Тропарі і читання в зеленій книжці на стор. 1 і 2.

- Кава і солодке Сьогодні після Служби Божої о год 8:30 і 10:30 рано, у вітальні під церквою.

*Спеціальне прохання: після закінчення Служби Божої просимо замкнути молитвенники і співаники і поставити їх на відповідне місце. Рівнож просимо не залишайте бюлетенів і других матеріалів в лавках. Будьмо господарними в нашій церкві і допоможемо, щоби наші лавки були чисті й акуратні.*

**Сьогодні, Неділя, 5 Серпень:**

- Катехитична програма під час Служби Божої в 10:30 рано і буде продовжуватися кожної неділі.

*Просимо всіх Парафіян приносити продукти для потребуючих, які не псуються (non-perishable) в першу і третю неділю кожного місяця. Просимо допомагати!*

**Понеділок, 6 Серпень: Преображення Г. Н. І. Христа**

- 10:00 год. ранку – Служба Божа і благословення овочів

- 7:00 вечора – Служба Божа і благословення овочів

**Неділя, 12 Серпень:**

- Катехитична програма під час Служби Божої в 10:30 рано і буде продовжуватися кожної неділі.

**Середа, 15 Серпень: Обов'язуюче Свято – Успіння Пресвятої Богородиці**

- 10:00 год. ранку – Служба Божа і благословення зілля і квітів

- 7:00 вечора – Служба Божа і благословення зілля і квітів

**Середа, 29 Серпень: Усікновення Голови Івана Хрестителя (піст)**

- Служби Божої в 8:25 рано.

**PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS**

*Almighty and Merciful God, Inspire those You have chosen To hear and answer Your call to the Priesthood and Religious Life. Give them the courage to be the prophets for our times. Give them the wisdom and openness to live their personal call. Give them the strength to be ready witnesses of Your love and care for the world. May they find support and encouragement in our words and in our prayers. Through the intercession of Mary, the Mother of God and all the Saints. Amen.*

August 5, 2012

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

*Papal General Prayer Intention for August: "Pray that prisoners may be treated with justice and respect for their human dignity."*

*Mission Intention for August: "Pray that young people, called to follow Christ, may be willing to proclaim and bear witness to the Gospel to the ends of the earth."*

- Tropar, Kondak & readings for today in the green booklet pages: 1 & 2.

- Coffee and sweets are available today following the 8:30 am and 10:30 am Divine Liturgy in the Fellowship Room. All guests and parishioners are invited.

*A SPECIAL Request: At the conclusion of each Divine Liturgy, please close all Liturgy and/or hymnbooks and return them to their proper place. Also, please do not leave any church bulletins or any other material in the pews. Let each of us do our part to be true stewards of our parish church by helping to keep the church pews clean and neat. Thank you.*

**TODAY, Sunday, August 5:**

- **Catechism Program** for Pre-Schooler's during the 10:30 am Divine Liturgy.

*Food Bank Donations: We encourage all parishioners to contribute to the Food Bank on the first and third Sundays of every month. PLEASE ADD YOUR SUPPORT.*

**Monday, August 6: Feast of the Transfiguration**

- 10:00 am and 7:00 pm - Divine Liturgy and **Blessing of Fruit**

**Thursday, August 9:**

- 7:00 pm - **Memorial Divine Liturgy for + Leona Moody in Church.**

**Sunday, August 12:**

- **Catechism Program** for Pre-Schooler's during the 10:30 am Divine Liturgy.

**Wednesday, August 15: Dormition of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Day of Obligation**

- 10:00 am and 7:00 pm - Divine Liturgy and **Blessing of Herbs and Flowers.**

All able bodied persons should attend.

**Wednesday, August 29: Feast of the Beheading of John the Baptist.**

- **We abstain from eating meat this day -**

- Divine Liturgy - 8:25 am.

**Thank you** everyone for all the well wishes, cards and prayers. Thank you to the Fathers for their prayers and visits. God Bless You All. John Pura & Family

We invite former choir members as well as singers from Holy Eucharist Parish, Dormition Parish, Holy Cross Parish and St. Nicholas to participate **at the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy on Saturday, September 1, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. during the visit of our Major Archbishop Sviatoslav, in the Protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish.**

The only **PROVISO** is singers must attend and participate in the three Sunday Divine Liturgies at St. Mary's on AUGUST 12; AUGUST 19; AUGUST 26.

**Request for Prayers:** to pray for you, your family member, or friend – please submit the name to the Parish Office by phone 604.879.5830 or by written note on the collection plate.

**Пам'ятайте помолитися:** за Вашу родину, за членів Парафії, а особливо за тих які знаходяться в лікарнях, або тих що очікують Божої відповіді на їхні молитви, або радіють Божою відповіддю, або за тих які відзначають уродини, або роковини, або за тих що покликані до їхньої вічної винагороди, або за родину яку вони залишили.

**REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR:** your family; your fellow parishioners; especially the shut-ins or those in the hospital; those seeking God's answer to their prayers or those rejoicing with God's answer; those celebrating a birthday or anniversary; those called to their eternal reward and for the family they leave behind; as well as any other need.

**Please remember in your prayers especially:** Bishop Severian Yakymyshyn, OSBM, Fr. Vincent Prychidko, OSBM; Fr. Steven Basarab, Joseph Bayduza, Mary Earl, Catherine Hladij, Victoria Kuzik, Emily Kuzyk, Bodzie Lawryshyn, Oscar Lyseyko, Ben Marchinkow, Jason Obuck, John Pura, Mary Scott, Wasyl Saik, Kaiya Williams, Leon Woznow, and the Canadian Armed Forces on peacekeeping missions.

**PLEASE VISIT** our Parishioners or phone those that are confined to their hospital beds or their homes. They need your visits, your phone calls, as well as your prayers.

**If there are Parishioners that you visit and we are not listing them for others to pray for them,** please call the Parish office with that information, or to request father to visit them.

**Please remember to pray daily for vocations to the priesthood and religious life.**

**Це пригадка для всіх вірних.** Просимо приходити вчасно на Службу Божу. Будьмо готові разом заспівати початковий гімн. Зрозумійте, якщо Ви прийдете до Церкви після Великого Входу, Ви пропустили більшу частину Служби Божої, і дійсно не вислухали приписаної Служби Божої на неділю.

**Церковна Етика:** Будьмо свідомі, що беручи участь у Св. Літургії ми мусимо одержати кінцеве Благословення перед тим як ми залишимо Службу Божу. Ми рівнож просимо не виходити з Церкви перед закінченням Служби Божої. Ми просимо Вас не спілкуватися в Церкві перед, під час і після Служби Божої. Прошу це робити в притворі Церкви або у Вітальні під церквою. Залишім наву (Nave) церкви для вірних які моляться.

**A SPECIAL NOTE to ALL PARISHIONERS:** Please come on time for the Divine Liturgy. Realize that when you come into the Church proper after the Great Entrance, you have missed most of the Divine Liturgy and have not really attended the prescribed service for a Sunday.

**Church Etiquette:** Be aware that to have attended the entire Divine Liturgy one must receive the Final Blessing before leaving the Church Service. We also ask that you do not visit in the main part of the Church before, during or after the service. Please use the Vestibule or the Fellowship room to conduct your conversations – leave the Church proper (the Nave) for those that want to pray.

## **CAMP ST. VOLODYMYR – August 20 – 27, 2012**

Look at our new website! Camp St. Volodymyr has been enriching campers in their Ukrainian Catholic Faith and Culture since 1983. Located in Kelowna, campers spend a week participating in age tailored activities such as Ukrainian dancing, arts & crafts, singing, catechesis, sports and water activities. Camper fees: \$260 before July 12 and \$310 after. Third and fourth child from same family – \$150 each. The deadline for registering is Thursday, July 26. Registration forms can be downloaded from the eparchial website at [www.nweparchy.ca](http://www.nweparchy.ca).

Bus transportation is available from New Westminster.

For further information contact Jennifer Sawka @ 604.876.5691 or [jennsawka@hotmail.com](mailto:jennsawka@hotmail.com) or Father Andriy 250.860.7295. Register early. Space is limited!

**Support our Camp!** Donations are always greatly appreciated. We are always happy to accept food donations of vegetables, fruits, cereals, and treats for children, as well as monetary donations. Tax receipts can be issued with donations of \$25 or more.



### **Prayer for the Beatification of the Servant of God Metropolitan**

**Andrey:** Our Lord Jesus Christ, You always reward Your faithful servants, not only with special gifts of Your love, but also with the eternal reward of the saints in heaven, and in many cases You grant them the recognition of sanctity by Your Church here on earth. We humbly pray: grant that Your faithful servant Metropolitan Andrey be numbered among the saints. Throughout his just life, “full of suffering and trials,” he was a good shepherd for his flock and a great labourer for Christian unity. And through his beatification and intercession, grant our entire people the great gift of unity and love. Amen.

[www.sheptytskyinstitute.ca](http://www.sheptytskyinstitute.ca)

### **Unity 2012 – August 16–19, 2012 in Pinawa, MB**

#### **Final deadline for registration Monday, July 30**

For those who are still thinking about going to UNITY you have just 1 more week to mail in your registrations which are available at their website:

<http://ucyc.ca/unity2012/index.php>

Cost: \$250 includes all meals, accommodation, sessions and social event for the program. You are responsible for booking your own flights to and from Winnipeg. Please be at the airport in Winnipeg by 2:00pm on Thursday, August 16. For departing flights on Sunday, August 19, please book return flights anytime after 4:00pm. Remember to check the box on your registration form if you require transportation from the airport to the unity site. Please mail in your registrations along with \$250.00 to:

Unity 2012 Planning Group, c/o Youth Ministry Office, 233 Scotia Street, Winnipeg, MB R2V 1V7

For more information, please contact. Fr. Theo [theomac@lycos.com](mailto:theomac@lycos.com) or Ph:1.250.384.2292

**UNITY 2012**  
**August 16-19, 2012**  
**in Pinawa, MB**  
**PRAYER FOR UNITY 2012**

*To Our Lord Jesus Christ*

O Lord Jesus Christ,  
You prayed on the night of Your Passion  
That all Your disciples might be one,  
As You are one in the Father,  
And the Father is in You.  
Grant us, Lord,  
That we may find ourselves in You.  
Restore and perfect in us Your image  
And true likeness.  
Grant us courage to reject  
The spirit of indifference and mistrust.  
Open the eyes of our minds and hearts  
To see Your holy face in each other.

May we embrace and celebrate  
This great gift of Faith  
Which You have given us.  
O Lord, all-perfect in Love,  
Show us the way that leads to Unity;  
And keep us in Your Holy Will aslways.  
We give glory to You, Master and King,  
Together with Your eternal Father  
And Your most holy, good and life-giving  
Spirit,  
Always, now and forever and ever. Amen.

***Intention***

We pray for Unity 2012, that the young adults who gather may not be afraid to open their hearts to the Lord Jesus Christ, and to venture out into the wilderness according to His Gospel! “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight the paths of our God.’” - Isaiah 40: 3 “The voice said, ‘Cry out.’ So I said, ‘What shall I cry?’ -Isaiah 40: 6a “He will feed His flock like a shepherd and gather the lambs with His arm; and He will comfort those with young.” - Isaiah 40: 11 “Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the elect shall be without strength. But those who wait on God shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like the eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not hunger.” Isaiah 40: 30-31

*To Our Lord Jesus Christ* - O Lord Jesus Christ, show us the way that leads to Unity; and keep us in Your Holy Will always. We give glory to You Master and King, together with Your eternal Father and Your most holy, good and life-giving Spirit, always, now and forever and ever. Amen.

*Intention* - We pray for Unity 2012, that the young adults who gather may seize the day and receive the Spirit, and live according to His Gospel! “Whatever you do, whether in word or in deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.” (Colossians 3:17)

**All able bodied Parishioners and Friends** willing to assist with the Major Archbishop Sviatoslav's visit **are invited to attend a planning meeting on Sunday, August 12, 2012 at 12 noon in the Fellowship Room in the Church.**

**NEEDED FOR September 1, 2012 - Major Archbishop's Visit -**

Various committees to look after preparations and dismantling in different facilities:  
"This plan needs a sunny day"

**1. Church Fellowship Room – K of C vesting and unvesting**

- Need:**
- Coat Racks
  - water
  - 2 - security - before/during / after
  - 4 - assist with pizza and pop
  - ?? helpers to straighten up Fellowship Room after.

**2. Recreation Centre – All Clergy vesting and unvesting**

- Need:**
- Coat Racks / chairs and tables
  - water
  - lite refreshments after
  - 2 - security - before/during / after
  - ?? helpers to clear things away after service.

**3. Hall and Kitchen – Banquet in main Hall Buffet style**

- Need:**
- 15 - helpers to set up the Banquet Hall
  - 4 - Greeters and ticket takers
  - 4 - persons to assist with seating:  
reserved as well as regular seating
  - 6 - Buffet table servers
  - 10 - Coffee servers
  - ?? Dishwashers and helpers to clean up

**4. Church / Parking and Procession**

- Need:**
- 4 - Parking attendants
  - 2 - persons to assist with guiding clergy to vesting site and  
guiding ecumenical guests to church seats.
  - 8 - Ushers for Church
  - 11 - Cross Bearer and Banner carriers.
  - ?? helpers to straighten up church after service.

## **PASTORAL VISIT OF HIS BEATITUDE SVIATOSLAV TO THE EPARCHY OF NEW WESTMINSTER**

**His Beatitude Major Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk** – Father and Head of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, lives in Kyiv, Ukraine. He will be visiting British Columbia in August and September this year. His visit will take place during this special year commemorating the centennial of the appointment of Blessed Nykyta Budka, Martyr, as the first Ukrainian Catholic Bishop for all of Canada. Everyone is invited to participate in the public events during His Beatitude's visit that will take place in New Westminster, Vancouver and Kelowna:

**31 AUGUST – 2 SEPTEMBER 2012**

### **Friday, August 31st**

**6:30 PM Moleben at Holy Eucharist Cathedral, 501–4th Avenue, New Westminster, BC**, to celebrate the 100 Anniversary of the appointment of the first Bishop for Ukrainian Catholics in Canada, Blessed Nykyta Budka, Martyr; and the 60th Anniversary of the founding of Holy Eucharist Parish. The Moleben is open to the public. Advance tickets are needed for the reception to follow.

### **Saturday, September 1st**

**10:00 AM Hierarchical Divine Liturgy Protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish 560 West 14th Avenue, Vancouver, BC**, to celebrate the 100 Anniversary of the appointment of the first Bishop for Ukrainian Catholics in Canada, Blessed Nykyta Budka, Martyr; and the first visit of our present Major Archbishop, His Beatitude Sviatoslav. The Divine Liturgy is open to the public and no tickets or special passes are required for admission. Advance tickets for the Banquet that will follow in the Parish Cultural Centre are \$60.00/each for which a \$30.00 tax receipt will be issued. Tickets can be purchased from:

**St. Mary's Parish office – 604.879.5830**, or from

**Mrs. Pat Sorochuk – 604.433.0661** or from **Dr. Michael Myckatyn**

### **Sunday, September 2nd**

**11:00 AM Hierarchical Divine Liturgy at Dormition of the Mother of God Parish – 1091 Coronation Avenue, Kelowna, BC**. to celebrate the 100 Anniversary of the appointment of the first Bishop for Ukrainian Catholics in Canada, Blessed Nykyta Budka, Martyr; and the first visit of our present Major Archbishop, His Beatitude Sviatoslav. The Divine Liturgy is open to the public. Advance tickets for the Banquet can be purchased. Phone: 1.250.860.7295

### **Nine things God will not ask**

1. God will not ask what kind of car you drove, – He will ask how many people you drove who did not have transportation.
2. God will not ask the square footage of your house, – He will ask how many people you welcomed into your house.
3. God will not ask about the clothes you had in your closet, – He will ask how many you helped to clothe.

4. God will not ask what your highest salary was, – He will ask if you compromised your character to obtain it.
5. God will not ask what your job title was, – He will ask if you performed your job to the best of your ability.
6. God will not ask how many friends you had, – He will ask how many people to whom you were a friend.
7. God will not ask in what neighbourhood you lived, – He will ask how you treated your neighbours.
8. God will not ask about the colour of your skin, – He will ask about the content of your character.
9. God will not ask why it took you so long to seek Salvation, – He will lovingly take you to your mansion in heaven, and not to the gates of Hell.

### **The Feast of the Transfiguration**

*“We praise You, O Life-giver Christ, and we venerate the most glorious transfiguration of your most pure Body.” (Hymn of Praise in the Matins Service of the feast)*

On the sixth (6) of August, our Church celebrates the feast of the glorious Transfiguration of the Lord. The purpose of this feast is to celebrate that glorious event in the life of Jesus Christ, the Transfiguration, which some of the holy Fathers call the second Theophany. The significance of this event is evident from the fact that three evangelists – Matthew, Mark and Luke – recorded it. Let us then examine the event of the transfiguration, the institution of this feast and the spirit of its service.

### **The Event of the Transfiguration**

The public career of Christ is now nearing its end, soon to be followed by his suffering and death. Although the Apostles believed that Jesus was the Messiah sent by God and although they expressed this faith through the lips of St. Peter, nevertheless, their faith was not as yet confirmed. Hence, Christ wished to strengthen it by an extraordinary revelation. Therefore, several days after predicting his own passion and death, Jesus took Peter, James and John with him, and went up to the top of mountain Tabor; there, in prayer, he revealed to them a ray of his Divinity. St. Matthew, when writing about this miraculous transfiguration of Christ, says: “And he was transfigured before them. And his face shone as the sun and his garments became white as snow.” (17,2) Near Christ, the Old Testament prophets, Moses and Elias, appeared and spoke with him about his death. The Apostle Peter, seized by the brightness of Christ’s glory, cried out: “Lord, it is good for us to be here.” (17,4) As at the baptism in the Jordan, so too here a voice was heard from heaven saying: “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” (17,5) The Gospel says nothing of the place where the transfiguration took place. However, Christian tradition since the fourth century generally accepts the place as Mt. Tabor.

Why did Jesus Christ show his glory only to the disciples Peter, James and John? According to the opinion of St. John Damascene, Christ took Peter with him so that he, who publicly acknowledged Christ's Divinity, might hear the confirmation of his profession also from the Heavenly Father. The Lord took James up to Mt. Tabor because he was to be the first bishop of Jerusalem and the first of the Apostles to give up his life for Christ. Finally, our Saviour also made John a witness of his transfiguration, for he was his beloved disciple and a virgin. Having understood Christ's divinity on Mt. Tabor, John later wrote in his Gospel: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." (1,1)

All three Apostles, witnesses of Christ's glory on Mt. Tabor, would later be witnesses of his agony in the Garden of Olives. So deeply impressed were they by Christ's transfiguration that in later years they wrote about it. In his second letter, St. Peter strengthens his faith in Christ by recalling his glorious transfiguration, saying: "For we were eye-witnesses of his greatness. He received glory and praise from God the Father when that unique declaration came to him out of the majestic splendour: "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased. We ourselves heard this said from heaven when we were with him on the holy mountain." (II, 1,17-18) The Evangelist John writes with enthusiasm in his Gospel: "And we saw his glory, the glory as it were of the only-begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth." (1,14)

### **The Institution of the Feast**

The observance of this feast goes back to the fourth century. At that time, St. Helena, mother of Emperor Constantine the Great, built a church on Mt. Tabor in honour of the Lord's Transfiguration. At the end of the eleventh century, the Crusaders found several churches and monasteries on Mt. Tabor. In the thirteenth century, however, the Mohammedans came and destroyed them. Cyril II, the Patriarch of Jerusalem built a new church over the ruins of the ancient church in 1860. In 1923, a magnificent basilica in honour of the Transfiguration of our Lord was built on Mt. Tabor.

This feast began to be solemnly observed in the Eastern Church under the title "The Lord's Transfiguration" from the sixth century; in Western Syria, in the eighth century, it was called "The Feast of Tabor".

Originally, the feast of the Transfiguration was observed in February. However, since this joyful feast fell during the time of the Great Fast, its celebration was not in keeping with the spirit of fasting and penance. Therefore, it was transferred to the sixth of August. Why this day? The historian Eusebius and St. John Damascene are of the opinion that the Lord's Transfiguration took place forty days before the death of Christ. Thus, the holy Church, in keeping with this opinion, transferred this feast from the month of February to the sixth of August, because forty days later, September

14, is the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross – the commemoration of the passion and death of Christ.

From the East, the feast of the Transfiguration reached the West somewhere around the seventh and eighth century. Here it came into practice slowly; it was observed at different times and even in the twelfth century was not universally kept. In 1457, Pope Callistus III extended this feast throughout the Western Church and commanded that it be observed on the sixth of August in memory of a victory over the Turks near Bilhorod. This victory took place on the twenty-second of July, 1456, but news of the victory did not reach Rome until the sixth of August. The Armenians observe the Lord's Transfiguration on the seventh Sunday after the Descent of the Holy Spirit.

The feast of the Transfiguration is one of the twelve principal feasts of our Church, having a one day pre-feast and a seven day post-feast. The sticheras and canons of the feast were composed by St. John Damascene and Cosmas of Maiuma (8c).

This feast falls during that time when the fruits of the earth reach maturity. From the earliest times in the Eastern Church, on this day fruit is blessed in thanksgiving to God for the first-fruits of the earth. This custom was adopted by the Christian Church from the Old Testament which prescribed that fruit be brought to the Temple of the Lord. In the Book of Exodus we read: "You shall carry the first-fruits of the corn of your ground to the house of the Lord your God." (23,19) In the Book of Leviticus we read: "When you shall have entered the land which I shall give you, and shall reap your corn, you shall bring sheaves of ears, the first-fruits of your harvest to the priest." (23,10)

The custom of blessing the first-fruits in church was prescribed in the Canons of the Holy Apostles at the end of the third century. The Apostolic Constitutions of the fourth century have a prayer for the blessing of first-fruits. The local Synod of Carthage (318), in the forty-sixth rule gave prescriptions concerning the first-fruits that are brought to church. The Sixth Ecumenical Council of 691 spoke of the blessing of the first-fruits of grapes (the vine) and wheat. In the Typicons of the Great Church of Constantinople from the ninth-tenth century and in the Typicon of Evergetes Monastery of the tenth century no mention was made of the blessing of the vine, that is, grapes.

In Greece, in the month of August grapes and wheat, which are the more important fruits, reach their maturity. For this reason, the custom of blessing the grapes and ears of wheat in church on the feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord prevailed there. In Rus-Ukraine, grapes of the vine were replaced by apples and other fruits.

### **The Spirit of the Services of the Feast**

Spiritual joy, admiration for the majesty of Christ, power, splendour, and the glorification of his Divinity radiate from the services of this feast.

The transfiguration of our Lord brings an unearthly joy to all the faithful. “All things today are filled with joy,” we sing in the Matins service, “because Christ was transfigured before his disciples.” And hand in hand with this joy goes great admiration for the power and glory of the transfigured Christ: “Before your death, O Lord,” says a stichera in the Vespers service, “during your transfiguration, the mountain became a heaven, the cloud stretched out like a tent, and the Father gave witness to you. Peter, James and John were present there with you just as they were present during your arrest, so that seeing your miracles, they would not be frightened by your passion.” At the Sessional Hymn in the Matins service we read: “O Jesus, you changed on Mt. Tabor and the bright cloud, assuming the form of a tent, covered the Apostles with your glory and they, O eternal Saviour Jesus Christ God, fell down upon the ground, for they could not bear the brightness of inaccessible glory in your face. You, who have shone forth with your light, enlighten our souls.”

The main theme and true purpose of the feast of the Transfiguration is profoundly dogmatic: it is the profession and the glorification of Christ's Divinity. In the aposticha of the Matins service of the pre-feast we read: “Come, let us go forth to the top of the mountain and with faith we shall see the glorious Transfiguration of the Lord. Let us faithfully worship him and cry out: “You alone are God, who became incarnate and deified human kind.” In one of the Sticheras of the Vespers service we read: “He, ‘I Am Who Am’, who once spoke with Moses in symbols on Mt. Sinai – today on Mt. Tabor is transfigured before his disciples ... conversing with Christ, Moses and Elias testified that He is the Lord of the living and the dead and that He is God who spoke in the past through the Law and Prophets.” At the sticheras of Praises in the Matins service we praise him in this manner: “You who from all eternity are God – the Word, who is clothed in light as though with a robe, transfigured yourself before your disciples, and above the sun, you O Saviour, have shone forth.” In Ode 6 of the canon we read: “The glorious Apostles recognized you as God on Mt. Tabor; O Christ, they were wrapt in wonder and they fell on their knees.”

Having before her eyes the glory of the Divinity of Christ, the holy Church calls upon her faithful to go forth in spirit to the mountain of Tabor and be witnesses to this transfiguration: “Come,” says the stichera of Lytiya, “let us go to the mountain of the Lord, into the house of our God, and let us witness the glory of his Transfiguration, the glory as of the only-begotten Son of the Father. Let us receive light from light and being raised aloft in spirit, let us glorify the Trinity, One Substance, forever.”

**ENJOY YOUR SUMMER WITH OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST – HE IS WITH YOU ALWAYS! REMEMBER TO PRAISE HIM AT LEAST ON SUNDAYS IF NOT EVERY DAY!**